Axbridge Union
Rural District Council.

Dr A.V. LÈCHE,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Elmcroft,
Axbridge R.S.O.
Somerset.

January 1898

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my annual report of this District

Area 102,282 acres, Population 24,965 (1891) 24,540 (1897)
Geology, Limestone Sandstone & conglomerate rocks, Peat-Marsh, & sea shingles in the marshes
Occupation, agricultural

	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890
Birth Rate	23.4 per 1000 living	26.01	23.6	24.4	25.1	25.6	27.0	24.2
Death Rate	15.08 " " "	14.5	17.3	16.5	16.3	17.3	19.5	17.6
Zymotic Rate	1.06 " " "	0.4	0.28	0.52	0.6	0.56	0.8	0.1
Infant Mortality	83.7 per 1000 Births	101.5	103.8	111.2	89	134.3	144	131

Water Supply — The Water Supply for Weare, Badgworth, Mark, Biddisham, Lympsham & East Brent is in working progress.

" " — A supply for Winscombe is under consideration.

" " — At Barton the dipping well has been repaired & protected. A stagnant pit that communicated with the house well, causing 3 cases of Diphtheria was drained & filled up & the well cleaned & restored.

" " — At Cheddar the Paper mills polute the river but are under consideration.

" " — At Worle the filter beds of the large Laundry are bad & insufficient.—

" " — At Wedmore the water supply to a case of Typhoid was found polluted

Water supply	with sewage tho: no Bacillus Typhosus found. The well is closed:
" "	at Banwell the water supply of 2 cases of Typhoid (1 imported from Edinburgh) was excellent.—
" "	at Rollestone where a case of Typhoid died (a man in bad health) the water was drawn from a pit & found polluted with sewage, but no Bacillus Typhosus found.
" "	at Axbridge the water supply to several cases of Diphtheria was good.
Sewage & Drainage	at Axbridge the house of origin of an outbreak of Diphtheria was thoroughly refitted & also several parts of the street drains relaid.
" "	at Barton a new drain laid to protect the dipping well.
Prevalence of Disease &	Notification in force since 1890 Scarlet fever 21 cases, Diphtheria 16. Enteric 5: Erysipelas 8. The Scarlet fever has been of a mild sporadic type, no deaths. Diphtheria: 8 cases had origin in a badly drained house, since thoroughly relaid. Typhoid; 2 cases, of whom one died were imported from a great distance; the other death occurred in a man

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Prevalance of disease

in bad health.

In all cases, all discharges & washing water &c were put in a special cesspit, & freely treated with chloride of lime. All bedding &c burnt that was thought necessary.

Diphtheria, caused 4 deaths, Typhoid 2 deaths: Measles 7. Whooping Cough 7: (all infants) Diarrhoea 7: Phthisis 52 (fifteen at St. Michael's Home) Bronchitis, Pleurisy & Pneumonia 60.
Heart Disease 55.
Lead Poisoning Prevalent due to the common use of Brass taps in Cider Casks.

Infectious Hospital: none, But a temporary iron one could easily be erected in case of need.

Dairies, cowsheds & milk shops. Inspection in progress.

Slaughter houses, Bake Houses & Common Lodging Houses Inspected.

Inspectors of Nuisance's Report, appended.

Bye Laws. Required.

I am
yours obedient servant
A.V. Lèche

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